

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 IO-14 SCEM-02 INT-08

SCI-06 DOTE-00 SS-20 TRSE-00 SPC-03 NSC-10 CIEP-02

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 L-03

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R 100525Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1928

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA HIKES AVIATION LANDING FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS BY 15 PERCENT.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ON DECEMBER 7, LEGISLATION RAISING
LANDING FEES BY 15 PERCENT FOR INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA HAD PASSED BOTH HOUSES OF FEDERAL
PARLIAMENT. ROYAL ASSENT STILL PENDING. INCREASE WILL BE
RETROACTIVE TO DECEMBER 1, BRINGING LANDING FEES TO US\$4,350
PER LANDING, FOR A BOEING 747B. JAMES HOLT, DEPARTMENT OF
CIVIL AVIATION (DCA) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL/AIR TRANSPORT
POLICY, CONFIRMED RECENTLY TO A CONGEN OFFICER THAT THIS RISE
IN LANDING REES CAME ABOUT AS A DIRECT RESULT OF TRANSPORT
MINISTER JONES' DESIRE TO MOVE, WITHIN FIVE YEARS, TO A POSITION
OF RECOVERING 80 PERCENT OF THE ANNUAL COSTS
OF OPERATING AVIATION FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA. HOLT STATED
THAT ONLY ABOUT 46-47 PERCENT OF THESE COSTS-WHICH
INCLUDE ATTRIBUTABLE EXPENSES OF OPERATING DCA, AS WELL AS
INTEREST AND DEPRECIATION CHARGES FOR AUSTRALIN AIRPORTS-
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ARE PRESENTLY RECOUPED. HOLT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE 15

PERCENT RISE SHOULD BE VIEWED WITH A TWO TO THREE YEAR PERSPECTIVE, NOTING THAT EARLIER ANNUAL INCREASES HAD BEEN SMALLER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT:

A) HOLT'S SUGGESTION THAT THIS NEWEST RISE BE VIEWED WITH A MEDIUM-RANGE PERSPECTIVE CANNOT OBSCURE THE FACT THAT LANDING FEES IN AUSTRALIA, NOW A\$1,317.22 FOR A 707, AND A\$2,815.44 FOR A 747 (A\$2,911 FOR A 747B) WERE AMONG THE WORLD'S STIFFEST, EVEN BEFORE THE DECEMBER 1 HIKE. (A\$1 EQUALS US\$1.50) AUSTRALIAN CARRIERS AFFECTED CAN TAKE SOME SMALL CONSOLATION FROM THE FACT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL CARRIER, QANTAS, SUFFERS MORE ACUTELY FROM THESE STIFF TARIFFS THAN OTHER AIRLINES, SINCE ALL QANTAS OUTBOUND FLIGHTS MUST EVENTUALLY RETURN FOR AN A\$1,300-A\$2,900 LANDING IN AUSTRALIA.

B) WHILE CONGEN UNWARE OF US STRATEGY AND TACTICS ON LANDING FEES, SUGGEST THAT US ASK TO DISCUSS AUSTRALIAN FEES AT NEXT BILATERAL CIVAIR TALKS, AND THAT US BE PREPARED DISCUSS RECIPROCITY IN CONTEXT OF DCA FORMULAE FOR ASSESSMENT OF LANDING FEES ALTHOUGH FEES NON-DISCRIMINATORY UNDER TERMS OF CIVAIR BILATERAL. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
FLUKER

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